An Overview of Immigration to Alberta

2003

Alberta
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An Overview of Immigration to Alberta, 2003 is published by Alberta Learning. All data is derived from the Immigrant Landings Micro Data (IMM1000) maintained by Citizenship and Immigration Canada. All information is based on calendar years. Slight discrepancies in percentages are due to the rounding of numbers. For more information or to provide comments, please contact us by telephone at (780) 427-5624 or by fax at (780) 422-1297.

Immigration to Canada by Province of Destination

Canada welcomed a total of 221,318 immigrants in 2003. This compares to 228,616 newcomers in 2002, and 250,423 in 2001.

In 2003, Alberta welcomed 15,738 landed immigrants, or 7.1% of immigration to Canada. This compares to 14,682 (6.4%) in 2002, and 16,386 (6.5%) in 2001.

Ontario was the most popular destination for immigrants in 2003 (54.2%), followed by Quebec (17.8%), British Columbia (15.9%), Alberta (7.1%) and Manitoba (2.9%).

Immigration to Canada by Province of Destination, 2001-2003

	2001		2002		2003	
Province	*Number*	*%*	*Number*	*%*	*Number*	*%*
Ontario	148,545	59.3	133,476	58.4	119,887	54.2
Quebec	37,520	15.0	37,500	16.4	39,466	17.8
British Columbia	38,312	15.3	33,899	14.8	35,271	15.9
Alberta	16,386	6.5	14,682	6.4	15,738	7.1
Manitoba	4,583	1.8	4,599	2.0	6,474	2.9
Other	5,077	2.0	4,460	2.0	4,482	2.0
Total	**250,423**	100.0	**228,616**	100.0	**221,318**	100.0

Immigration to Alberta by City of Destination

Almost 90% of Alberta's new immigrants in 2003 were destined for one of five cities: Calgary, Edmonton, Red Deer, Lethbridge and Medicine Hat.

Most newcomers went to Calgary (9,064 / 57.6%) or Edmonton (4,540 / 28.8%).

Immigration to Alberta by Intended Destination, 2001-2003

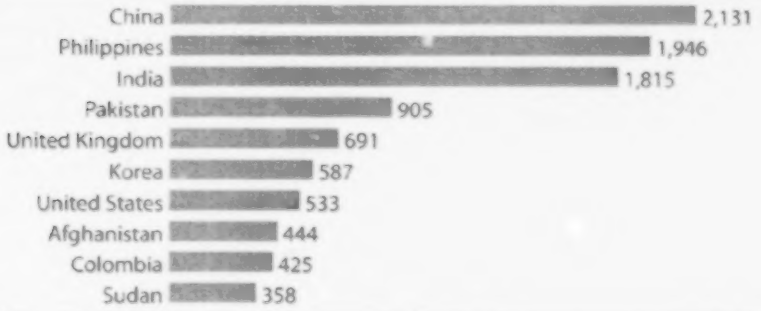
	2001		2002		2003	
City	*Number*	*%*	*Number*	*%*	*Number*	*%*
Calgary	10,090	61.6	8,929	60.8	9,064	57.6
Edmonton	4,393	26.8	4,018	27.4	4,540	28.8
Red Deer	228	1.4	160	1.1	204	1.3
Lethbridge	175	1.1	150	1.0	169	1.1
Medicine Hat	157	1.0	84	0.6	134	0.9
Fort McMurray	79	0.5	66	0.4	127	0.8
Brooks	50	0.3	49	0.3	80	0.5
Grande Prairie	72	0.4	73	0.5	62	0.4
Sherwood Park	48	0.3	50	0.3	55	0.3
Banff	61	0.4	51	0.3	48	0.3
Subtotal	15,353	93.8	13,630	92.7	14,483	92.0
Other	1,033	6.3	1,052	7.2	1,255	8.0
Total	**16,386**	100.0	**14,682**	100.0	**15,738**	100.0

Immigration to Alberta by Top Ten Source Countries

In 2003, 62.5% of newcomers to Alberta originated from ten source countries: China, the Philippines, India, Pakistan, the United Kingdom, Korea, the United States, Afghanistan, Colombia, and the Democratic Republic of Sudan.

Colombia and the Democratic Republic of Sudan replaced Iran and Vietnam among the top ten source countries of newcomers to Alberta in 2003.

Immigration to Alberta by Top Ten Source Countries, 2003



Immigration to Alberta by Top Ten Source Countries, 2001-2003

2001			2002			2003*		
Country	*Number*	%	**Country**	*Number*	%	**Country**	*Number*	%
China	1,828	11.1	India	1,723	11.7	China	2,131	13.5
The Philippines	1,653	10.9	China	1,564	10.6	The Philippines	1,946	12.4
India	1,559	9.5	The Philippines	1,267	8.6	India	1,815	11.5
Korea	886	5.4	Pakistan	843	5.7	Pakistan	905	5.8
Pakistan	870	5.3	United Kingdom	745	5.0	United Kingdom	691	4.4
United Kingdom	861	5.2	Korea	649	4.4	Korea	587	3.7
United States	576	3.5	United States	473	3.2	United States	533	3.4
South Africa	327	2.0	Iran	447	3.0	Afghanistan	444	2.8
Vietnam	327	2.0	Afghanistan	329	2.2	Colombia	425	2.7
Afghanistan	322	1.9	Vietnam	320	2.1	Sudan	358	2.3
Subtotal	9,209	56.2	Subtotal	8,360	56.9	Subtotal	9,835	62.5
Others	7,177	43.8	Others	6,322	43.0	Others	5,903	37.5
Total	**16,386**	100.0	**Total**	**14,682**	100.0	**Total**	**15,738**	100.0

* Based on Country of Citizenship from CIC's IMM1000 database for 2003 (4th quarter results).

Immigration to Alberta by Immigrant Class

Under the Government of Canada's *Immigration and Refugee Protection Act* and *Regulations*, people may apply to immigrate to Canada as a member of one of three immigrant classes: Independent or Economic Class, Family Class, or Refugee Class.

Independent Class Immigrants

In 2003, 7,793 (49.5%) of immigrants to Alberta entered as part of the Independent Class. These immigrants are selected for their potential economic contribution to Canada, and are assessed on criteria including education, work experience, and knowledge of English. The Independent Class includes skilled workers, business immigrants, live-in caregivers, and provincial nominees.

Family Class Immigrants

In 2003, 5,886 family class immigrants arrived in Alberta, accounting for 37.4% of all newcomers to Alberta. Family class immigrants are close family members, including spouses, common-law partners, dependent children, parents or grandparents, who are sponsored by a Canadian citizen or permanent resident.

Refugee Class Immigrants

Each year, Canada accepts a certain number of refugees in keeping with its humanitarian tradition and international commitments. In 2003, 1,959 (12.5%) of Alberta's immigrants were refugees requiring protection.

Immigration to Alberta by Immigrant Class, 2001-2003

	2001*		2002		2003	
Class	*Number*	%	*Number*	%	*Number*	%
Independent	9,559	58.3	7,921	54.2	7,793	49.5
Family	4,953	30.2	4,940	33.8	5,886	37.4
Refugee	1,874	11.4	1,749	11.9	1,959	12.5
Other	N/A	—	72	0.5	100	0.6
Total	**16,386**	100.0	**14,682**	100.0	**15,738**	100.0

* 2001 does not include cases coded as "Other".

Immigration to Alberta by Gender

In 2003, 53.2% of all newcomers to Alberta were female.

Immigration to Alberta by Gender, 2001-2003

	2001		2002		2003	
Gender	*Number*	%	*Number*	%	*Number*	%
Male	7,816	47.7	6,943	47.3	7,358	46.8
Female	8,570	52.3	7,739	52.7	8,380	53.2
Total	**16,386**	100.0	**14,682**	100.0	**15,738**	100.0

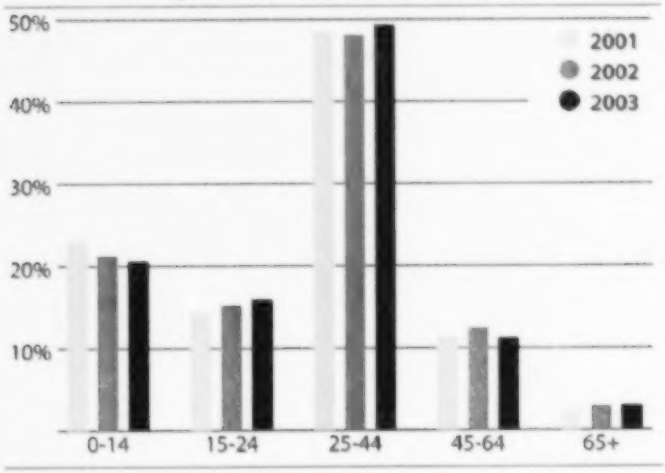
Immigration to Alberta by Age

In 2003, most newcomers to Alberta were between 20 and 44 years of age (58.8%). Newcomers aged 45 to 64 years of age comprised 11.1% all newcomers in 2003 while those aged 5-19 years of age accounted for 20.9% of all newcomers. 3.0% of all newcomers to Alberta in 2003 were 65 years of age or older.

Immigration to Alberta by Age, 2003

Age	*Number*	%
0-4	952	6.0
5-9	1,200	7.6
10-14	1,088	6.9
15-19	1,000	6.4
20-24	1,502	9.5
25-29	2,394	15.2
30-34	2,393	15.2
35-39	1,829	11.6
40-44	1,143	7.3
45-49	697	4.4
50-54	397	2.5
55-59	347	2.2
60-64	319	2.0
65+	477	3.0
Total	**15,738**	100.0

Immigration to Alberta by Age, 2001-2003



Immigration to Alberta by Native Language

The most common native language of newcomers to Alberta in 2003 was Mandarin (11.9%).

Immigration to Alberta by Native Language, 2003

Language	*Number*	%
Mandarin	1,878	11.9
English	1,765	11.2
Tagalog	1,709	10.9
Punjabi	1,341	8.5
Spanish	885	5.6
Other	8,160	51.9
Total	**15,738**	100.0

Immigration to Alberta by Knowledge of English

Most newcomers to Alberta in 2003 arrived with English language skills (51.5%).

Immigration to Alberta by English Language Ability, 2001-2003

Knowledge of English	2001		2002		2003	
	Number	%	*Number*	%	*Number*	%
English	8,886	54.5	7,583	54.2	8,105	51.5
No English	7,500	45.8	7,099	45.8	7,633	48.5
Total	**16,386**	100.0	**14,682**	100.0	**15,738**	100.0

Immigration to Alberta by Age and Knowledge of English

In 2001, 2002 and 2003, more than half of newcomers to Alberta between 25 and 49 years of age had English language skills (65.7% in 2003).

Immigration to Alberta by Age and Knowledge of English, 2001-2003

	2001			2002			2003		
Age	English	No English	Total	English	No English	Total	English	No English	Total
0-4	159	963	**1,122**	110	836	**946**	110	842	**952**
5-9	466	881	**1,347**	305	807	**1,112**	292	908	**1,200**
10-14	543	780	**1,323**	393	678	**1,071**	332	756	**1,088**
15-19	464	652	**1,116**	397	605	**1,002**	418	582	**1,000**
20-24	655	607	**1,262**	560	679	**1,239**	814	688	**1,502**
25-29	1,612	691	**2,303**	1,387	656	**2,043**	1,628	766	**2,394**
30-34	1,624	796	**2,420**	1,511	692	**2,203**	1,543	850	**2,393**
35-39	1,327	597	**1,924**	1,173	491	**1,664**	1,182	647	**1,829**
40-44	942	353	**1,295**	783	367	**1,150**	739	404	**1,143**
45-49	472	250	**722**	414	276	**690**	459	238	**697**
50-54	213	227	**440**	184	270	**454**	186	211	**397**
55-59	126	243	**369**	113	250	**363**	129	218	**347**
60-64	102	218	**320**	105	216	**321**	97	222	**319**
65+	181	242	**423**	148	276	**424**	176	301	**477**
Total	**8,886**	**7,500**	**16,386**	**7,583**	**7,099**	**14,682**	**8,105**	**7,633**	**15,738**
%	54.2	45.8	100.0	51.6	48.4	100.0	51.5	48.5	100.0

Immigration to Alberta by Top Ten First Languages (other than English) and Knowledge of English

An average of 42.3% of all newcomers to Alberta in the period 2001 to 2003 who spoke one of the top ten primary languages of newcomers (other than English) arrived with English language skills (40.0% in 2003).

A large proportion of newcomers to Alberta in 2003 who spoke Tagalog, Arabic, Urdu or Spanish as their primary language also had English language skills (Tagalog – 64.8%, Arabic – 53.8%, Urdu – 51.6%, and Spanish – 50.8%).

Immigration to Alberta by Top Ten Primary Language (other than English) and Knowledge of English, 2001-2003

2001				2002				2003			
Language	English	No English	Total	Language	English	No English	Total	Language	English	No English	Total
Tagalog	1,176	351	**1,527**	Punjabi	346	968	**1,314**	Mandarin	274	1,604	**1,878**
Mandarin	236	1,269	**1,505**	Mandarin	205	975	**1,180**	Tagalog	1,107	602	**1,709**
Punjabi	370	807	**1,177**	Tagalog	837	334	**1,171**	Punjabi	533	808	**1,341**
Arabic	432	533	**965**	Spanish	336	358	**694**	Spanish	450	435	**885**
Korean	495	395	**890**	Urdu	298	392	**690**	Urdu	378	354	**732**
Urdu	324	432	**756**	Korean	179	466	**645**	Arabic	358	308	**666**
Spanish	359	349	**708**	Arabic	321	318	**639**	Korean	126	468	**594**
Russian	226	316	**542**	Russian	255	351	**606**	Russian	222	330	**552**
Hindi	282	90	**372**	Farsi	161	243	**404**	Other African	169	264	**433**
Vietnamese	42	276	**318**	Hindi	272	66	**338**	Dari	36	296	**332**
Total	**3,942**	**4,818**	**8,760**	**Total**	**3,210**	**4,471**	**7,681**	**Total**	**3,653**	**5,469**	**9,122**
%	45.0	55.0	100.0	%	41.8	58.2	100.0	%	40.0	60.0	100.0

Immigration to Alberta by Knowledge of French

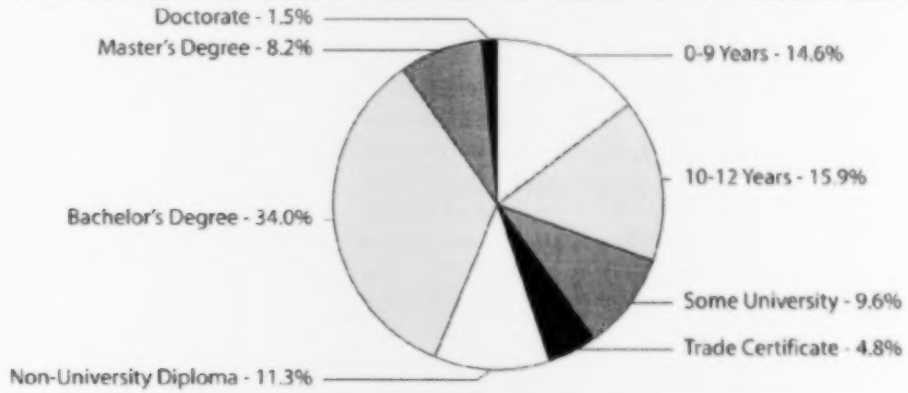
3.1 % of all newcomers to Alberta in 2003 had French language skills. Of these, 0.6% reported being French-speaking while 2.5% reported being bilingual (French & English).

Immigration to Alberta by Educational Attainment

Most newcomers (19 years of age or older) to Alberta in 2003 had high levels of education: 43.7% held a university degree (e.g., Bachelor's, Master's, or Doctorate), 4.8% held a trade certificate, and 11.3% held a non-university diploma.

More than 56% of newcomers to Alberta in 2003 possessed a university degree (i.e., Bachelor's, Master's, Doctorate), trade certificate, or non-university diploma.

Immigration (19 years of age or older) to Alberta by Educational Attainment, 2003



Immigration (19 years of age or older) to Alberta by Educational Attainment, 2001-2003

Class	2001		2002		2003	
	Number	%	*Number*	%	*Number*	%
0-9 Years	1,626	13.7	1,598	14.7	1,725	14.6
10-12 Years	1,865	15.8	1,767	16.2	1,882	15.9
Some University	1,040	8.8	991	9.1	1,132	9.6
Trade Certificate	621	5.2	535	4.9	564	4.8
Non-University Diploma	1,257	10.6	1,096	10.0	1,340	11.3
Bachelor's Degree	4,125	34.9	3,685	33.8	4,022	34.0
Master's Degree	1,016	8.6	984	9.0	969	8.2
Doctorate	254	2.1	217	2.0	182	1.5
Total	**11,804**	100.0	**10,873**	100.0	**11,816**	100.0